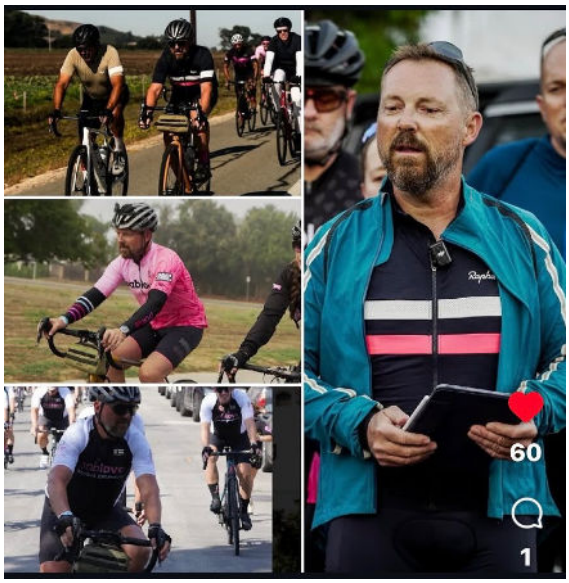
ReversingCancer Newsletter

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The Cracks Where the Light Gets In –

How Frontier Science Is Writing the Cancer Headlines of Tomorrow – Today



"I remember in the weeks after Dawn Marie died, my mom and I said, **you know, someday we're going to pick up a newspaper – and we're going to read that they found a cure for cancer, and it's going to be the best and worst day of our lives,** because we're going to know that it came too late for Dawn Marie, came too late for our family.

"But what a joy to know that maybe someday other families wouldn't have to do what we did, wouldn't have to see what we've seen, wouldn't have to suffer what we've suffered."

-Robb Rempel

Robb Rempel and I went to high school and church together. Robb's younger sister Dawn Marie fought cancer at age three.

Robb offered these words at a cycling fundraiser:

It seems like a lifetime ago. It was 1981, my sister Dawn Marie was three years old, and she collapsed on the floor one evening while we were playing and they rushed her into our rural Nebraska hospital for an emergency appendectomy.

When they opened her up, what they found instead was Wilms tumor, and the tumor had burst and filled her whole abdomen with cancer. My other sister Amy and I were just kids, and we were told that was probably going to be it.

They closed her up and put her on an airplane and flew her from rural Nebraska to Omaha, to Children's Hospital, and I remember standing there with Amy at the side of the runway. We didn't get to say goodbye because they were in such a hurry, and we didn't believe we would see her again as my parents and she flew off into the sky.

As they got her to Omaha, she survived the flight, which they said she wouldn't, and then she survived a series of surgeries to try to clean the cancer out of her for weeks. And then they started a course of treatment while trying to keep some semblance of a life together.

My sister and I lived with friends and grandparents. We tried to keep our grades up as best we could, and my family tried to make that work for two years. And despite all the doctors' predictions, Dawn Marie lived.

She made it.

She survived all of that, ***but she would spend the next 20 years suffering the consequences of the treatments that saved her – the adhesions and other unspeakable things that she had to endure.*** *I don't remember a year she wasn't in the hospital going through some kind of surgery, some kind of treatment, and near death really, for the next 20 years.*

Dawn Marie knew how fragile life was from a really early age. So she married really young. She'd always wanted to be a mama, and she married young, and she and David adopted two kids right away, Meredith and Tate.

And then miraculously, while they were adopting Tate, they found out she was pregnant, which was not supposed to happen. So little Chloe came along into our lives at about the same time. At 26 years old, Dawn Marie had finally put together the life that she'd always prayed and hoped for – beautiful children, a home, a husband.

She went in for a checkup and they found cancer again.

This time it was leiomyosarcoma. They gave her 18 months. They said it was probably the result of the treatments they did when she was three.

We got 25 years extra with her, but it took a giant toll on her body.

She fought like everything. The indignity didn't defeat her for that year and a half – the suffering, the pain, the medicine, the surgery she went through – she fought it all because she wanted to stay with her family. But this time, we weren't going to get a miracle.

So on May 10, 2007, Dawn Marie passed away, leaving a gaping, giant hole in a thousand lives.

And it goes on. On my wife's side of the family, my 16-year-old nephew Boone right now is fighting leukemia. He's in the last stages of his treatment protocol and doing great.

The fight continues. That's why I signed up to do this. Because we're here to raise money to try to find the cure for those other families, people like Boone, who are still fighting that fight today.

I also love that in the meanwhile, we're trying to do something to give hope and life to those families and to those children who are going through such unspeakable things.

ReversingCancer 2025 Update —

Funding The Science The Good Ol' Boys Club Won't Touch

Five years ago, Jon Correll and I started ReversingCancer with one rule:

> Fund the breakthroughs, not the bureaucracy.

It's not about making money. It's not about academic or institutional prestige or personal legacy.

It's about cure. Everyone who knew Robb Rempel and family, knew they feared Dawn Marie's cancer coming back. It's about ending *that*.

That focus has led us to some of the most electric scientific territory of the decade.

Your donations have funded projects at Tufts, Columbia and Midwest University. You've shaped three landmark scientific gatherings:

- Denis Noble's Oxford 2026 Evolution Conference
- Jinsong Liu's 2024 Giant Cell Conference at MD Anderson
- The Cancer & Evolution Symposium in 2020

We helped launch the AACR Cancer & Evolution Working Group. I'm co-founder. What started as a handful of scientists rethinking cancer from scratch now has 6,000+ members worldwide.

Searching for the Cure
Where Others Refuse to Look

We literally coined the term “Stage Negative One Cancer.” Super-early precursors of cancer are now receiving attention in the medical and investment world.

We assisted a research initiative at Columbia that eventually launched PredictRX, where I served as Founding President through October. A new management team is in place now. I'm focused on the next wave.

This summer I spent time with scientists working on the molecular "gray zone" – that mysterious transition where healthy cells go rogue. Almost nobody is looking there. Which is exactly why we are.

We contracted professional grant writer Tom Hollon to secure funding for high-potential projects. Some of this work is so new it barely exists in the literature yet. That's the point.

A Think Tank Without the Red Tape

I'm working with collaborators on a scientific think tank – something I've wanted to build for years. The mission: **Give the world's most original cancer theorists a place to collaborate without institutional handcuffs.** The same kind of space that birthed the internet is what we need to crack cancer's deepest puzzles.

The first scientist ReversingCancer supported was Michael Levin. Mike and I talk regularly.

His work shows cancer isn't just a "genetic mistake" – it's when cells lose communication with the body. Healthy tissues use electrical signals to stay organized and maintain their shape. When those signals break down, cells get confused about their job.

Levin's team showed in animals that restoring normal electrical patterns can stop cancer-like growth – even when dangerous mutations are still present. You can sometimes guide cancer back toward healthy behavior instead of just attacking it.

Cancer bioelectricity is becoming a serious field. The National Cancer Institute is paying attention.

His latest research shows these electrical "maps" fade as we age. When the map fades, tissues can't repair themselves, and cancer risk spikes. They're developing ways to read and adjust these signals early, long before a tumor appears.

It's a paradigm shift: treating cancer as a communication problem we can solve.

Your support matters. This is where early money creates outsize impact.

Why ReversingCancer Works

We don't chase what's already funded. We go where others aren't looking yet – because that's where breakthroughs hide.

Frontier science is unpredictable. That's a feature, not a bug. We're not stuck in the slow, incremental pathways that bog down mainstream research. We pursue:

- The unconventional
- The underfunded
- "Blue Chip Renegades"
- Ideas that rewrite the playbook

This year we shaped conferences, kickstarted collaborations, and helped launch a company that wouldn't exist without us.

Next year will be bigger.

Where We're Headed

Three focus areas:

1. **Early-stage cellular behavior** - understanding the transition from order to chaos
2. **Evolutionary and developmental frameworks -** integrating cancer into the larger story of living systems
3. **High-level collaboration** - connecting pioneering thinkers who otherwise would never meet

These are the cracks where light gets through.

ReversingCancer isn't another charity. It's action central for practical boots-on-the-ground science that Evolution 2.0 prized from the word go.

If you've donated, you've pushed ideas forward that would still be sitting on the sidelines. If you support us again, you're backing work that doesn't just treat cancer – but understands it, redefines it, and ultimately prevents it.

Thank you for your end-of-year gift. The path isn't linear – but it's full of possibility.

Perry Marshall

Who We Are

ReversingCancer is a foundation helping to identify cancer in its earliest stage, when treatment is vastly more likely to succeed – an approach that hasn't received nearly as much support as it deserves. While 90% of the profession is focused on Stage 3-4, we are detecting cancer at Stage Negative One. This will change the way cancer is treated worldwide.

How You Can Help

Contribute to Science Research

Donate at www.evo2.org/cancer

Contact us at: support@reversingcancer.org